

A Balanced Assessment System

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is committed to ensuring that all students leave high school prepared for postsecondary success. A balanced assessment system—which includes the formative assessment process as well as interim and summative assessments—provides tools to improve teaching and learning. The formative assessment process is an essential component of a balanced assessment system.

DIGITAL LIBRARY

An online collection of thousands of educator-created classroom tools and resources



INTERIM ASSESSMENTS

Optional and flexible tests given throughout the year to help teachers monitor student progress



SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS

Year-end assessments for grades 3–8 and 11 with a computer adaptive test and performance tasks in math and English



CLARIFY
INTENDED
LEARNING

ELICIT
EVIDENCE

ACT ON
EVIDENCE

INTERPRET
EVIDENCE

Formative Assessment Process

Formative assessment is a **deliberate process** used by teachers and students **during instruction** that provides **actionable feedback** used to **adjust** ongoing teaching and learning strategies to improve students' attainment of curricular learning goals. There are four attributes in the Formative Assessment Process, represented graphically as a clover.

Digital Library

The Digital Library is an online collection of high-quality instructional and professional learning resources contributed by educators for educators. These resources are aligned with the intent of the Common Core State Standards and help educators implement the formative assessment process to improve teaching and learning. The Digital Library also incorporates collaboration features to provide educators opportunities to comment on and rate resources and share their expertise with colleagues across the country in online discussion forums.

WHAT EDUCATORS ARE SAYING:

This well-organized collection of strategies, tools and tactics was developed by teachers because it was needed, and is used by teachers because it works.

Key Features of the Digital Library

Innovative Digital Library Design Features

Educators can use state-of-the-art tagging, filtering, and search features to locate, view, download, and use resources to:

- ✓ Differentiate instruction for diverse learners
- ✓ Engage students in their own learning
- ✓ Expand assessment literacy
- ✓ Design professional development opportunities
- ✓ Engage in Professional Learning Communities

The Digital Library includes collaboration features that promote collegial conversations across the country. These features:

- ✓ Offer opportunities for educators to rate resources
- ✓ Encourage educators to exchange ideas for using and modifying resources
- ✓ Provide online discussion forums for educators to share their expertise with and pose questions to colleagues

K-12 Instructional and Professional Learning Resources

These resources are:

- ✓ Contributed by educators for educators
- ✓ Vetted against a set of quality criteria
- ✓ Supported by research and evidence
- ✓ Annotated with common information such as learning goals, success criteria, and connection to the formative assessment process

The Digital Library contains more than 100 multi-media modules for English language arts/literacy and mathematics instruction, assessment literacy, and score reporting. These modules are interactive experiences that may be used to:

- ✓ Demonstrate the formative assessment process
- ✓ Incorporate instructional tasks aligned to the Common Core State Standards into lesson plans
- ✓ Learn how to use evidence from the Smarter Balanced summative and interim assessments and the formative assessment process to improve teaching and learning
- ✓ Support diverse groups of learners

WHAT EDUCATORS ARE SAYING:

A dream for professional development resources!

Contact your district coordinator to get your login credentials for the Digital Library.

Digital Library Spotlight Webinars and Forums

RELEVANT • TIMELY • INNOVATIVE

Spotlight Webinars are presented by national experts and innovative practitioners. They highlight Digital Library resources on timely and relevant topics. Spotlight Forums provide opportunities for educators from across the country to discuss the resources and webinars.

Learn more about the the Digital Library Spotlight Webinar and Forum series by downloading these fliers:

- [Illustrative Mathematics Series](#)
- [Supporting Students with Disabilities Series](#)